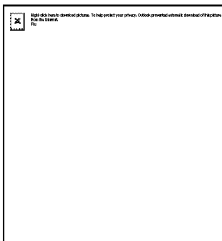
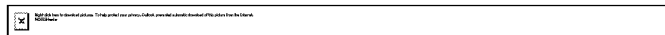


**From:** Joe Dorant <jdorant@moses-ma.ccsend.com> on behalf of Joe Dorant <jdorant@moses-ma.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2013 3:36 PM  
**To:** Hanchett, James (DPH)  
**Subject:** NEWS: MOSES Scientists Key to Tracking Annual Bug

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## Flu...by the numbers and the members MOSES scientists key to tracking annual bug.

Granted, a significant portion of epidemiology is lab research and numbers crunching, but for seven epidemiologists, or "Epis," within the Mass. DPH the annual flu season brings with it even greater responsibility.

**Joyce Cohen, Ed Corkren, Steve Fleming, Nancy Harrington, Rosa Hernandez, Hillary Johnson and Marija Popstefanija**, all MOSES members, are on a rotating call schedule to provide 24/7 advice, recommendations and information to healthcare providers, as well as the general public. In addition, **Molly Crockett** and **Monica Morrison**, also MOSES members, keep the state's flu web site up-to-date through the season ([www.mass.gov/flu](http://www.mass.gov/flu)).

"We reassure callers, be it a provider or concerned parent, on how best to handle the flu," explains MOSES Board Member and Epidemiologist Ed Corkren. This includes laboratory study to determine if specimens are of a flu A or flu B variety, as well as tracking the 56 Mass DPH sentinel or early warning sites located throughout the Commonwealth.

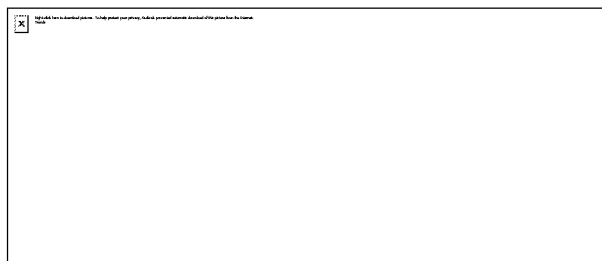
These sites - consisting of hospitals, clinics, longterm care facilities, schools and providers - keep track of all people reporting influenza-like-illness (ILI) symptoms by type and age group. This information is then sent directly to the immunization team at DPH.

"Crunching these numbers presents us with the first indicators of a rise, as well as drop, in flu as it progresses through the season," Corkren notes.

Epidemiologists, like the MOSES members at Mass. DPH, are the front line when it comes to responding to disease outbreaks, implementing appropriate control measures and preventing future disease. Without laboratory testing, immunization epidemiologists could not confirm suspected outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Corkren questions, "What's most interesting about this year's trends is the spike in December of H3N2, one of a half dozen crossover avian flus we see each season. The question this year is have we dodged a long drawn out flu season or might we see a second spike in late February or even March? Only the numbers will tell."

The best solution? Get a flu shot...it is still not too late.



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